

# Richard Serra

Krishna Chawla

# Life

- Richard Serra was the second of three sons born to a Russian Jewish mother and a Spanish father. He was born in San Francisco in 1939. Staying mostly within the boundaries of his home life, he knew little of the outside world, let alone the fine arts. His earliest sparks of creativity came from spending time at the shipyards, where his father worked as a pipefitter. After studying at the University of California at Berkeley and at Santa Barbara, he graduated in 1961 with a BA in English literature.

# Life

- During this time, he began working in street mills in order to support himself. In 1964, he graduated from Yale University with both BFA (bachelor of fine arts) and MFA (master of fine arts). Receiving a Yale travelling fellowship, he spent a year in Paris, followed by a year in Florence.

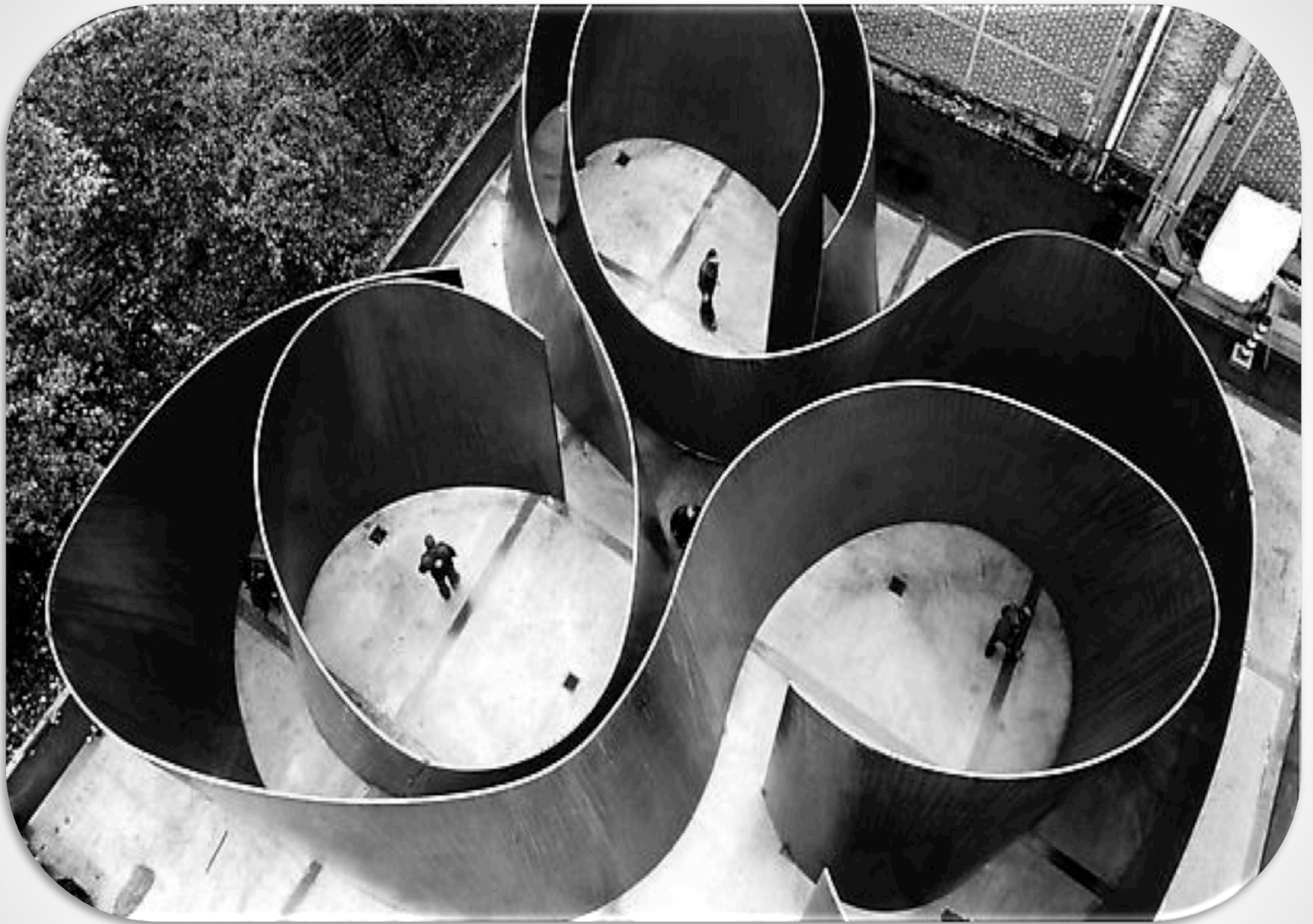
# Artworks



## Junction

13' 11/2" x 75' 1/2" x 49'  
15/16" (4 x 22.9 x 15.2  
m), weatherproof steel





- **Elevational Mass, 2006**
- Hot rolled steel
- 60 x 84 x 72 inches overall (152.4 x 213.4 x 182.9 cm)



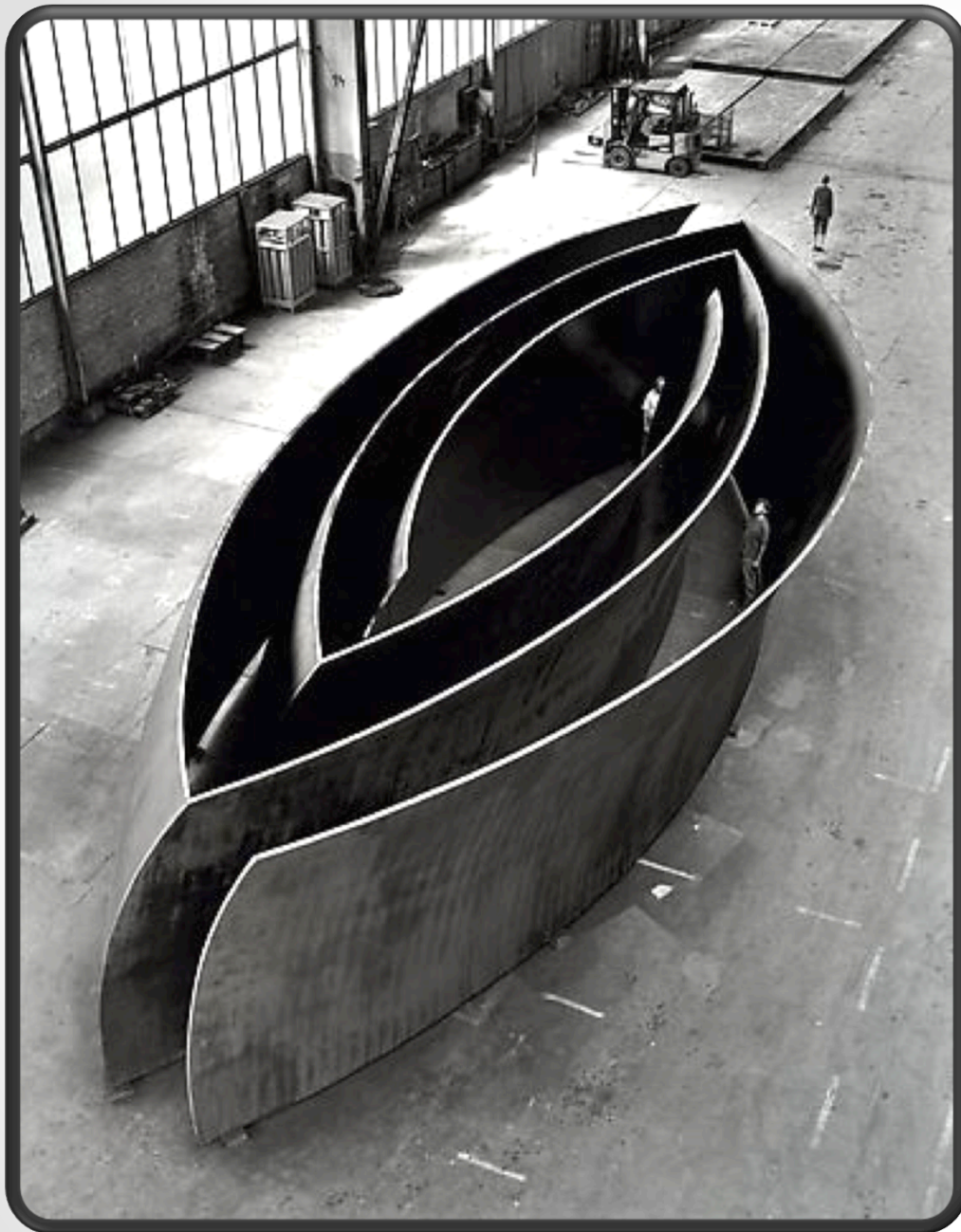
# Torqued Spiral



# Style

- Richard Serra's first sculptures were made of rubber and fiber glass. Serra's earliest work was abstract and process based made from molten lead hurled in large splashes against the wall of a studio or exhibition space. Still, he is better known for his minimalist constructions from large rolls and sheets of metal. His exterior steel sculptures go through an initial oxidation process, but after 8–10 years, the patina of the steel settles to one color that will remain relatively stable over the piece's life. Serra always





Blind Spot (2002-2003)

Weatherproof Steel

13' x 54' x 32' 4" (4 x  
16.5 x 9.9 m)

# Bibliography

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- <http://www.gagosian.com/artists/richard-serra/>
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- <http://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2007/serra/>